

# 'Tis spring, but NCC thinks Winterlude

By Donna Balkan  
*Citizen staff writer*

With the rest of us caught up in spring fever, it hardly seems the time to talk about sleigh rides, ice sculptures and snow fences.

But the people who organized this year's Winterlude festivities are determined to stage an encore, and at the National Capital Commission, plans are already being made for Winterlude 1980.

Thursday, the sponsors of the various activities met with NCC officials to do a final post-mortem on last month's \$180,000 canal-fest and to make suggestions for a similar event next year.

"We are very happy about what happened this year," said Winterlude co-ordinator Rheel Leroux. "We put together something that surprised many people in the National Capital Region."

And although most of the participants agreed that Winterlude '79 was a success, some things will have to be ironed out for next year.

Crowd control, especially during the popular harness races, was repeatedly cited as a major problem.

"We had over 20 security guards and the RCMP, and we lost control completely," Leroux said, suggesting that snow fences be erected next year to keep spectators off the ice during such events.

And the people from the National Capital Equestrian Park, who organized the sleigh rides, complained that there weren't enough customers during the week to keep the sleighs busy.

Suggestions for next year included holding events on the two weekends

only, selling buttons or tuques as souvenirs, lowering the \$2.50 price of the sleigh rides, and allowing betting on the harness races.

The last suggestion, however, was mixed by Bill Galvin of the Canadian Trotting Association, who organized the racing event.

"I doubt if you'll see it," he said. "It's illegal within 50 miles of another track ... and the logistics of setting it up would be unreal."

Leroux said tentative dates have already been picked out for 1980 — Feb. 8 to 17 — one week later than this year.

"If there's a thaw in January, the NCC will have more time to prepare the canal," he explained.

All that remains, he said, is to get the approval of the commission's executive committee.

"I don't see how they can say no," he said.

## Satellite may transmit energy by 2025

By the year 2025, a 10-kilometre long solar power satellite could be floating in space transmitting microwave energy to North American homes.

Science fiction?

Not really, says the associate professor of electrical systems in engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy N.Y.

Speaking to the Ottawa chapter of the Institute of Engineering and Electronics Engineers on Thursday, Dr. Ronald Gutmann said the idea was first proposed by a Boston engineering firm in 1968. It's now being being studied by the United States Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The 50-square-kilometre apparatus, with an antenna one kilometre in diameter, "would mean an almost constant availability of energy," said Gutmann.

"It's quite an ambitious undertaking" with power of five gigawatts (five million kilowatts), he said. "The idea is to have solar energy as a base load power source."

There are still problems, however — mainly financial. Costs for the entire project will approach \$60 billion over 20 years.

The space shuttles to put the apparatus into orbit will have to be specifically designed, and the first satellite will have only 30 years of operational life, said Gutmann.

